

CLAIMS

SUB A1 1 In a data processing environment having a user terminal coupled to a publicly accessible digital communications network and having a data base management system

6 with, the improvement comprising:

server responsively coupled to said user terminal via said publicly accessible digital communications network and responsively coupled to said data base management system wherein said server includes an administrator which optionally transfers an unavailability message to said user terminal.

2. The improvement according to claim 1 wherein said state manager includes a repository for storing said unavailability message.

3. The improvement according to claim 2 wherein said publicly accessible digital communications network is the world wide web.

4. The improvement according to claim 3 wherein said repository includes space for storage of at least one variable for said unavailability message.

SUB A2 5. The improvement according to claim 4 wherein said data base management system is Classic MAPPER.

SUB A37

6. An apparatus comprising:

- a. a user terminal;
- b. a publicly accessible digital communications network coupled to said user terminal;
- c. a server responsively coupled to said user terminal via said publicly accessible digital communications network;
- d. a data base management system responsively coupled to said server; and
- e. an administrator responsively coupled to said data base management system and said server for transferring an unavailability message from said server to said user terminal to indicate unavailability of said data base management system.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said data base management system has a repository having storage for said unavailability message.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said repository has storage for a variable to be included in said unavailability message.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said publicly accessible digital communications network is the world wide web.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said user terminal is an industry compatible personal computer having a commercially available web browser.

1 11. A method of communicating between a user terminal and a data base management system comprising:

- a. transmitting a service request from said user terminal via a publicly accessible digital data communication network to said data base management system;
- b. determining whether said data base management system is currently capable of honoring said service request;
- c. honoring said service request if said determining step determines that said data base management system is currently capable of honoring said service request; and
- h. transferring an unavailability message to said user terminal if said determining step determines that said data base management system is not currently capable of honoring said service request.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said transferring step further comprises transferring said unavailability message to said user terminal via said publicly accessible digital data network.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said transferring step further comprises adding an appropriate variable to said unavailability message.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein said publicly accessible digital data network further comprises the world wide web.

SUB 1A4

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said data base management system further comprises Classic MAPPER data base management system.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a. means for permitting a user to interact with a digital data base;

b. means responsively coupled to said permitting means for providing said user with access to a publicly accessible digital communication network via service-based requests;

c. means responsively coupled to said permitting means for offering data processing services according to dialog-based requests; and

e. means responsively coupled to said offering means and said permitting means for notifying said user terminal of the unavailability of said offering means.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said publicly accessible digital communication network further comprises the world wide web.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said offering means further comprises means for storing a predefined unavailability message.

SUB 1A5

19. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said offering means further comprises Classic MAPPER data base management system.

1 20. An apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said permitting means further comprises
an industry standard personal computer.

ADD B1

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